

great evil of free-negroism. I have here some statistics copied this morning from the census tables of 1860, by which it will be seen that the free colored population of

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| Maine         | is | 1,327  |
| New Hampshire | "  | 494    |
| Vermont       | "  | 409    |
| Massachusetts | "  | 9,602  |
| Rhode Island  | "  | 3,952  |
| New York      | "  | 49,005 |
| Maryland      | "  | 83,942 |

So that the figures show that the small State of Maryland with an area of territory not exceeding in extent that of New Hampshire, one of the smallest of the New England States, has at this day within her limits 10,526 more free negroes than the great State of New York and all New England put together. Add to this already redundant free negro population 87,189 slaves proposed to be emancipated by this Convention and turned loose in our midst, and thousands of thriftless idle contrabands that have come into the State since the commencement of this unfortunate war, and we have an array of facts which to my mind forcibly suggest the speedy conversion of the proud old State of Maryland into a free negro colony. If the policy of inviting free negro immigration from abroad, which I regret to see finds advocates on this floor, should be adopted, this result will as surely follow as the night succeeds the day.

Mr. President, upon the soil of Maryland I was born. Her hills and her valleys, her rivers and her mountain forests are dear to me. I am proud of her early history. Beneath the green turf of her silent church-yards rest the bones of my ancestors for generations back. I wish to pass the remnant of my days among her warm-hearted and generous people; and when my earthly career is ended to sleep in her bosom beside my kindred. And loving her as I do, my earnest prayer to Heaven will be that she may escape the fate that impends over her; and that the ruin and desolation that has everywhere followed in the wake of free-negroism may not sweep over her fair fields and lovely habitations.

It is claimed by the advocates of abolition that one result of emancipation will be that the lands of the State will greatly appreciate in value. I wish I could bring my mind to such a conclusion. But with my limited vision, I can see only the contrary result. What has been the effect in Missouri under the influence of abolitionism? There, lands have fallen as low as \$5 per acre. What are your fertile fields to you if you have not the labor wherewith to till them and thereby turn them to profitable account? How, under such circumstances, is the owner to support the heavy load of State and National taxes? The price of real estate, I insist then, will not be enhanced by the abolition of slavery. Certainly, if such a result ever does follow, it will not be for years to come.

With many of the owners of real estate in Maryland, this sudden abstraction of their labor will involve not alone the loss of money actually invested in slaves, but will result in depriving them of their lands; and turn many a man penniless upon the world who but a little while ago was in comparatively affluent circumstances.

The scheme proposed by the abolitionists of Maryland, is entirely unlike any plan of emancipation furnished by either the legislation of this country or of England. I have already called the attention of the Convention to the course pursued by England and the Northern States on this subject, and the legislation adopted by the Congress of the United States for the District of Columbia is of too recent a date to be overlooked by any one when considering this question. It is opposed, too, to the published opinions of the President of the United States on two important points. If those who are the friends and supporters of the President will examine his messages on this subject, they will find that the only plan of emancipation recommended by him was one with full compensation to the owners, and one not suddenly carried into effect, but gradually. In his proposition to the border States, he fixed the year 1900 as the limit of time, thus giving the people in the States thirty-seven years in which to consider and carry out his proposed plan. Governor Bradford, in his message to the last Legislature of Maryland, uses this significant language: "I think the condition of Maryland would have been improved if she had adopted long ago a *gradual* system of emancipation." In that same message, when speaking of the interference of the military authorities of the government with the slaves of Maryland, he recommends the passage of such laws by the Legislature as will enable parties aggrieved to obtain compensation from the Federal Government, thereby conceding that under the war power even the government had no right to take the slaves of Maryland without compensation. And surely, if the General Government cannot take the slaves of Maryland without compensation, the State has no right to do so.

But, now, with all the lights of experience before them, the majority of this House impelled by a zeal peculiar to new converts to a cause, unheeding and disregarding all the lessons taught by the past, ignoring all the recommendations coming from the highest authorities in the land, propose to blot out and destroy with one stroke of the pen, a system of domestic slavery coeval with our existence almost as a people, ingrained into our very social life; and all this without providing the smallest compensation for the loss of thousands and millions of dollars invested by the people in slaves. They propose to tear down and destroy, not to build up, to turn adrift upon the white population of the